

## **Women of '72 Survey – Looking Back for our 50th**

[December 2023]

The Women of '72 Survey was initially conceived as a resource for excavating memories to assist in writing our collective women's story for the Class of '72 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion yearbook. The thoughtful responses from classmates who participated in one or both parts of the survey make this yet another treasure trove of experiences and perspectives that demand to be shared and preserved in all their rich detail – both on our class website and in the Class of 1972 Class Records in the University Archive.

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**PART A** collected data intended to fill in spotty University records about the women in our class. This Part A recap reports in full some individual replies from the 18 classmates who participated, while summarizing or listing other background details simply to convey a sense of the range and diversity of who we were as early “Princeton coeds.”

### **PART A survey respondents:**

- Jacqueline Ariail
- Yaffa Ventura Beck
- Daryl English
- Mary Wadsworth Darby
- Dorothy Grouse Fontana
- Diana Foster
- Helene Fromm
- Barbara Julius
- Dotty Jannarone Kemper
- Pam Lloyd
- Vera Marcus
- Angenette Duffy Meaney
- Meggan Moorhead
- Helena Novakova
- Carol Rahn
- Patricia Bowe Romines
- Claudia Tesoro
- Judith White

### **Where did you live during your student years at Princeton?**

Blair, Edwards, Holder, Little, Princeton Inn, Pyne, Wilson College (Laurie Love, 1937, 1938 1939, Gauss), Witherspoon, 1902

### **Where did you take your meals?**

Cap & Gown, Charter Club, Colonial Club, Commons (as sophomores), Independent, Princeton Inn, Stevenson, Terrace Club, Tower Club, Wilcox Dining Hall

### **What college did you transfer from?**

Boston University, Charles University (Prague), Connecticut College for Women, Goucher College, New York City College, Northwestern, Pembroke, Sacred Heart College, Salem College, Smith, SUNY Buffalo, Tufts, Wellesley

**Where did you live with your family before coming to Princeton?**

Alabama (Birmingham); Czech Republic; Connecticut (Greenwich); Illinois (Summit—Chicago suburb); Maryland (Baltimore); Massachusetts (Winchester); Minnesota (Minneapolis); Ohio (Circleville); Japan; New Jersey (Highland Park); North Carolina (Winston-Salem); Long Island (Merrick), New York; upstate New York (Brockport, Dobbs Ferry); West Point); New York City (returning to Israel), Virginia (McLean)

Some lived with family in multiple locations in U.S. and abroad.

**Did you attend public or private secondary schools before starting college?**

Three of the respondents came to Princeton from the private sector; everyone else hailed from public schools.

**What was your academic major/ field of study?**

Architecture, Biochemistry, Biology (pre-med), East Asian Studies, English, History, Music, Near Eastern Studies, Slavic Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

**What was your thesis topic and title?**

Nature in the Works of I.S. Turgenev

George Eliot: The Common Law of Diligence, Submission, and Self-Denial

The Political Philosophy of James Fitzjames Stephen

US participation in International Labor Organization (topic)

The Fate of Embryoid Bodies in Tissue Culture; Testicular Teratomas in Mice

Virginia Woolf: The Dialectic of the Silver Globe

Education in China (topic)

Revolution in Angola

The Dark Side of Laughter: A Study of Black Humor in Contemporary American Literature

Detective fiction: Whodunit?

Contemporary Japanese Painting

Chasing Science (Topic: the evolving ambition of sociology to be a science, as reflected in the two primary academic journals of sociology, 1895-1960)

Family as an Expression of Psychological Time in Works of Joyce, Woolf and Faulkner

Outsmarting Urban Poverty: Community Action and Education"" [or something like that]

Virginia Woolf: Finding a Room of Her Own

**In what extracurricular activities did you participate?**

Tennis, swimming, McCarter Community Theater, Theatre Intime, tutoring in Trenton, women's crew, Princeton Glee Club, political canvassing '70 elections, Triangle Club, Student Volunteers Council, campus bridge competitions. Singing with campus bands, including One Grunch But the Eggplant.

For many, work-study and academics left no time for other extracurricular activities.

**What interests, passions and pastimes have given the most meaning to your life over these past five decades?**

**Helena**

- Teaching has taken me around the world; many schools I taught in comprised of student body made up of over 40 nationalities. That inspired learning much about mentalities of different peoples and how to interact and work effectively together.
- Athletics and outdoor activities remained my passions; exploring beauty of and testing the limits of nature stayed with me till this day.
- Living on different continents and witnessing historical events helped me understand better the different faces of global turmoil. I am now better informed and can put events even in my own home country in more objective perspective.

**Jackie**

Writing fiction, teaching writing and literature, raising my three children, and being present at significant milestones in their adult lives, and, last but not least, connecting with friends. Recently, I've taken up playing piano again, and am learning jazz piano.

**Helene**

My family    Dance, Theatre, Film    Political action

**Patricia**

>Family and caregiver to my aging mother    > Living in London.    >Art, art history, art museum board service.    >Painting    >Girl Scouts of the USA, Council Board and National Board service.    >Researching family history    >Golf

**Diana**

commitment to family, raising children, education, long distance backpacking, competitive running and cycling, traveling to forests for natural and cultural history research, living in forests

**Angenette**

Literature    Literacy programs, mentoring, lay pastoral care, library board, school board, hospice volunteering, mission work in Cuba, all things French.

**Mary**

China and International World Order and Relations, Chinese culture (philosophy, classic novels and history) and Chinese food; family and friends; collecting art.

**Dorothy Fontana**

Studies of People's Republic of China, international politics, Russian politics, revolution and philosophy, and US intelligence processes. Managing charity sales of used books.

**Daryl**

Nature connections, active outing sports in my forties through early fifties --caving, cross-country skiing, scuba diving, sailing. And ongoing, four decades and counting -- hiking, daily neighborhood walks and gardening. Spiritual pursuits, yoga, meditation and other mindfulness

practices; travel at every opportunity, most recently largely with Princeton '72 trips. Playing Irish/ Celtic/ traditional fiddle; making art (painting and photography); contra dancing; making connections and expanding circles; helping others tell their stories; "entertaining" -- i.e., creating occasions for people to come together, laugh and share.

### **Vera Marcus**

Dance and Theatre. Believe it or not, I was introduced to African Dance by a visiting professor at Princeton. That lead to my founding Black Fire Theatre which performed and travelled throughout southern and eastern states in the 1970s. Many of my dancers, all from impoverished communities, moved on to other professions where they have excelled. My only son is a dancer and actor performing in NYC.

### **Meggan**

Music, I am a lyricist and sometimes composer. Poetry. Spirituality. Friendship. Cooking.

### **Carol**

I'm still trying to figure out what would give meaning to my life. (Yes, I've always been a late starter.) I wanted children, but never quite enough to do it on my own, which is the only way it would have happened. I married, late, a guy who was worth the wait. I came to Princeton driven blindly and unselfconsciously by the desire to learn. Grateful for the education I received there and I have never lost my curiosity or the habits of questioning, learning new things, wanting to make things better. The need to be useful defined my working life and continues to prod me into action. It vies, as it always has, with the fearful whisperings of my timid soul and my hedonistic laziness that just wants to enjoy! I have been very lucky in my life and so lucky with the life I have now.

### **Judith**

Wonderful spouse   Traveling   Working for equity in higher education   Democratic politics  
Enjoying art, theater, film.

### **Claudia**

Not sure how to answer this. Family, both immediate and extended, is probably more important to me than anything else. Friends are very important as well. I also care a lot about staying informed (current events, etc.) and about being productive (individually, at least).

### **Barbara**

Spending time with family and friends. Enjoying the culture and diversity of New York City, especially before COVID. Photography. Community Service. Spiritual pursuits.

## **What fields, positions and pursuits best define your professional career?**

### **Yaffa**

Biotechnology as applied to novel pharmaceutical development.

**Helena**

Teaching high school as well as grade school from 1973 to 2009 was my originally chosen career. That and Varsity coaching gave me many years of very fulfilling and gratifying profession. Professorship at Florida International University and preparing young people for their teaching careers was a wonderful culmination of my work aspirations in the field of education. In the last 16 years I got involved in Financial advisory business where I continue educating people, this time it is about setting up their financial goals and showing strategies how to reach them.

**Jackie**

Faculty positions in English or Writing at the University of Richmond, Duke University, and NC State University. For the seventeen years before retiring, I taught undergraduates one on one in Duke's Academic Resource Center. I've written and published fiction off and on since leaving graduate school.

**Helene**

Transportation Professional and Attorney:

\*New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA): -Chief of Staff, Feb. 2018-Dec. 2019 -Acting General Counsel, Jan. 2017-Feb. 2018 -Deputy General Counsel, 2008-2017; 1993-2002

\*MTA Bus Company, General Counsel 2006-2008

\*New York City Mayor's Office of Operations, Chief of Staff/Chief of Staff and Counsel, 2002-2006

\*New York City Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel, Senior Litigation Specialist and Assistant Chief, 1984-1993

\*Beldock, Levine & Hoffman, N.Y., N.Y., Associate 1979-1984

\*Cahill Gordon & Reindel, N.Y., N.Y., Associate 1975-1979

**Patricia**

International economist for two oil companies. Internal management consulting and HR strategy roles for an oil company. Unofficial role in a venture capital fund of funds founded by my husband.

**Diana**

Education - regardless of the job, I always found myself in a role as educator.

**Angenette**

International public relations and marketing communications in Hong Kong, South Korea, the U.S. and France.

**Mary**

Working with Henry A. Kissinger in and going to China. Helping to develop the first banking relationship with David A. Rockefeller between Chase Bank and the Bank of China (although spanned a couple of years, key dates were in 1977).

Investment Management, MSIM at Morgan Stanley. Setting up the first debt capital markets and different debt products for Chinese users...primarily Chinese banks. Setting up the first course

on China for training Morgan Stanley's Fixed Income Division  
Participating in the first joint venture investment bank between US and China....CICC...25th anniversary this year.

In fact, negotiated many firsts in China....first purchase of fluorspar from China to US, first ball mill contract, first hydroturbine contracts between at that time AllisChalmers and China(Lubuge, Three Gorges Dam, etc), plus many others.

Presently working for Chinese Business School, CKGSB, in New York...setting up different executive education programs and teaching leadership and diff between East and West at some of the programs for LA executives or next-Gen.

### **Dorothy Fontana**

People's Republic of China research. Division Chief of Chinese and Asian Affairs in the Department of Defense.

### **Daryl**

Banking; software specification and sales for entrepreneurial treasury management start-ups; PR and marketing communications; free-lance business writing and commercial artist representation; writing and editing taking me into 'retirement' and a new launch point.

### **Vera**

In 1979, I headed the first solar energy projects in the United States and went on to head the project that led to federal designation of California's Wild and Scenic River system, an act which protects them in perpetuity. I served as Assistant Secretary to Governor Brown's natural resources Secretary in those years. While I am equally proud of my work with Black Fire Theatre, I eventually became a lawyer and own my practice in family law.

### **Meggan**

Doctorate in Counseling Psychology, Boston University. Trainer for Dialectical Behavior Therapy through Behavioral Tech, through US and abroad. Clinical Faculty, University of North Carolina, Department of Psychology. Developing treatment programs and training therapists in NC. Clinical Associate, Duke University Medical Center Recipient of the Mary G. Clark Award, Lifetime Achievement Award for Contributions to Psychology in North Carolina, 2009. Private Practice, Durham and Carrboro, NC.

### **Carol**

My professional career is best understood by my need to be useful and a willingness to jump off a figurative cliff every now and then. No strategic thinker, I have always been hopeless at defining the goal (a weakness that also made me very late to decide my thesis topic). But once I have locked in on the goal, there are few people in the world better at getting from Point A to Point B. I have helped both individuals and organizations to change and driven new ways of doing things to get the job done. Worked in Silicon Valley when that was the most exciting place in the world to work and where women had more opportunities because it was all new and wide open. I lacked the blind confidence that is perhaps necessary to exceptional success, but knew how to cultivate collaboration. Talented employees, especially women, valued me as a manager. I gave them the chance to excel and the support to succeed. Understood from Princeton acceptance there's always an element of luck. Princeton was the first place in my

experience where it was impossible to get everything done. I had to learn that prioritizing meant not only deciding what was most important, but understanding some things would never get done at all. Like many a Princeton student, I'd been the smart one in high school. Being there, I could see that there were plenty of people who were smarter than me, but I was as smart as I needed to be and if there were things I failed to achieve in life it would be for reasons of character, not brainpower. These were my abiding life lessons from my Princeton experience.

### **Judith**

Higher education   Equity advocate   Faculty, administrator   Led non-profit offering higher education women's leadership program.

### **Claudia**

I got a job shortly after graduation, as a part-time "secretary" for a local civic association. Then I worked for a while as a Counselor at a women's clinic, advising patients about birth control options, etc. After that, I went to law school. None of my 4 quarter-long, law school "co-op" jobs, and none of my permanent jobs (except for one disastrous one, that lasted about 2 months), have been in private practice. I had always intended to be a Legal Aid lawyer, and was one for 4 years (might have continued indefinitely if I hadn't moved geographically). Long term, I then worked in government (city and federal for several years, state govt. ever since).

### **Barbara**

Teaching (English)   Strategic Planning.   Community Affairs.   Photography.

### **Please tell us about your family.**

Many are married or in relationships; many are not. (Marriage does not define life, as one respondent notes.)

Most have children or step-children. Most report some grandchildren. None confess to great-grandchildren.

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### **PART B – reflecting on the way we were**

#### **PART B survey respondents:**

- Jacqueline Ariail
- Yaffa Ventura Beck
- Mary Wadsworth Darby
- Dorothy Grouse Fontana
- Diana Foster
- Helene Fromm
- Dotty Jannarone Kemper
- Vera Marcus
- Meggan Moorhead
- Helena Novakova
- Patricia Bowe Romines
- Claudia Tesoro

#### **1. If you had to do it over, would you still decide to transfer to Princeton? Why or why not? What were your expectations and were they met?**

There were no regrets among survey participants about choosing Princeton. Yaffa calls Princeton “the best academic experience of my life.” Jackie recalls, “I expected a challenging academic environment and I got it!” And Diana speaks to both aspects in her comment: “Princeton offered a superb education. Courses were challenging, and having direct contact with professors doing world-renowned research was special.”

Remarks from others capture the full range of expectations.

#### **Helena**

I loved my experience at PU from the academic standpoint as well as personal. My number one expectation was to complete a BA degree - beyond that I had no further expectations. I very much appreciated and enjoyed individual approachability to Princeton faculty and encouragement of free thinking. Furthermore, Princeton gave me an opportunity to carry on with and developing my athletic interests and it exposed me to experiences I had not dreamed of.

#### **Patricia**

I think I applied because it was there, and I could. It was, frankly, something of a whim and then, once I got in....who says no to Princeton? Could I have done it for boys? I hope not. Because men at Princeton were more of a distraction than a blessing. Friendships were more complicated. The community was more individualistic and less supportive. Academics were no better than Wellesley and I failed to take advantage of Princeton’s extracurricular opportunities. So why would I do it still? Because the one expectation that was fully met was this: in 1972 having Princeton on your resume as a woman almost guaranteed you an interview anywhere you applied.

#### **Mary**

Princeton is one of the best universities in the world – and in my field of study – East Asian Studies – it offered me SO much in language study, and many, many other courses in my field. Terrific professors. Additionally, I had the chance to dip into other exciting fields and areas of study. Made many, many long-term friends.



**Dorothy Fontana**

I wanted to study political science focusing on China, and communist studies. My expectations were met and exceeded. It was a wonderful experience.

**Helene**

My years at Princeton were an important turning point for me. Transferring as a junior, I was more focused on my own personal transition rather than the university's transition to coeducation. Having attended local public schools through high school and a large state university before entering Princeton, coeducation was not new to me. I decided on Princeton over other schools because it was the furthest from my own experience. My goals were exceeded. The steeper academic challenges and wider social horizons at Princeton gave me a chance to test expectations about myself. It was an exhilarating two years. I was energized academically and made remarkable and lasting friends. My years at Princeton also opened up other opportunities following graduation and paved the way for my professional career.

**Vera**

I didn't know Princeton was Ivy League or an all-male institution before I went there. It was exciting and unique to be among the first, first-year women admitted there and even more exciting to graduate as an African American woman in three years. It has become a badge of honor to be among the women who made a difference. I like defying the odds, and my accomplishment did that.

**Meggan**

I had few expectations going in! A friend later told me that she had had to explain to me the significance of going to Princeton, having gone to Princeton.

**Claudia**

I wasn't too enthusiastic about the college I went to initially, which was not my first choice. I loved the fact that all-male schools like Princeton were starting to admit women, and was very glad to be accepted. I can't say what my "expectations" were, other than starting over at a "better" school, at a particularly interesting moment – and THAT expectation was certainly met.

**2. What aspect of your Princeton years do you now find yourself grateful for? What, if anything, was satisfying, memorable, or fulfilling?****Yaffa**

The high level of my fellow students and the desire for academic excellence.

**Helena**

My years at Princeton gave me an entry into the United States - I am grateful for the entire experience! The impressions were overwhelming and sometimes shocking, sometimes contradictory to my previous assumptions and it took a lifetime of many other experiences for me to put everything in proper perspective. During those initial years I was absorbing and taking advantage of what was offered, now I see the significance of the period and of my minute part in it. Those years for me have been, without a doubt, positively memorable!

**Patricia**

Just one or two lifelong, precious friendships.

The confidence boost that came from being accepted by the best of the best.

The mentorship and friendship of Nancy Weiss Malkiel.

The fellowship that allowed me to travel to Switzerland for thesis research.

Tower Club and the easy acceptance and relaxation found there.

Being encouraged by a junior professor to pursue economics at the graduate level, despite being stuck in a history major at Princeton because of my transfer.

**Jackie**

The classes, but especially the experience of writing a senior thesis. Working on my thesis with my advisor, Joseph Kestner. Participating in Theatre Intime. Dating.

**Diana**

When I arrived, I felt underprepared for the rigor of the courses required for my major even though I had come from a good college. I had attended a public high school with minimal resources, and I was probably still catching up. What is satisfying is that I rose to the challenge and did well in all of my classes.

**Mary**

My intellectual pursuits. Wonderful friends. An ability to grow and mature and begin to discover the real world. All was not perfect, but the lessons learned were for a lifetime.

**Dorothy Fontana**

I am grateful for the ability to grow and learn in my field. I also was grateful for the Woodrow Wilson school which required me to take classes from a broad range of disciplines. I found that foundational in helping me to look at problems and politics and understand them from a deeper perspective. I had some amazing and inspiring professors. I also learned to write better and do detailed research. Finally, I found my membership in Colonial Club to be a wonderful experience. I had good friends, we had an evening social life there. It gave me a sense of belonging.

**Dotty Kemper**

Exceptional professors and class experiences aside, just being with so many smart, accomplished, and interesting people was truly life-changing.

**Helene**

I am grateful for the academic challenges at Princeton, the professors in the Politics Department (my major) and my other classes, who took an interest in my research and views, and my friends at school. I was encouraged by my advisors and other professors to explore new perspectives on their subjects and to share my views. The opportunity to do in depth research and write a senior thesis was particularly gratifying. My academic experience was expanded by dance, poetry and visual art classes.

I made remarkable and supportive friends among both women and men in our class junior year at Wilson College and senior year at Edwards Hall, and have grown even closer to two particular friends since graduation. I am grateful for the many hours with friends relaxing, listening to

music, learning about opera, discussing politics and personal goals, and attending concerts and political events, and for the deep and lasting friendship with those two enduring friends.

**Vera**

My years in theatre were the most memorable. Princeton had a visiting African American drummer and a dance Professor who taught me African dance. I took that training back to Birmingham, Alabama and founded my own group, "Black Fire." Even recently I have seen African dance troupes that remind me of my work with Black children 50 years ago.

**Meggan**

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to study Japanese. I also studied spiritual practice outside of the bounds of the university curriculum but was exposed to avenues of deep learning. While, again not a part of the Princeton curriculum, I started on my deepest passion of writing song lyrics at the request of a friend.

**Claudia**

Overall, I do think my 2 years at Princeton were "satisfying, memorable, [and] fulfilling" overall, and I am very grateful to have attended Princeton. Having said that, I honestly can't articulate how or why the experience had such a positive impact.

**3. What is your biggest regret about your years at Princeton?**

Not enough time, in our highly compacted two- or three-year Princeton experience, is a common refrain.

**Yaffa**

Leaving after one year [on conscription into the Israeli army].

**Helena**

That I was unable to share more of the experience with my family.

**Patricia**

My choice of thesis topic: of very little interest to anyone, including me, then or now. Failing to explore more – New York, extracurricular activities, football games, the art museum, playing sports.

**Jackie**

That I didn't make more female friends.

**Diana**

I took too many courses just in my field of study. I regret not having diversified more. I also regret not having experienced field work away from the university. Today's college students have so many more opportunities for experiencing the real world and planning deliberately for their futures. A related regret is that I had no female professors, TA's, mentors, or role models. I graduated with no real plan for how to combine a professional life with being married and having children.

**Mary**

That I did not have more years at Princeton.

**Helene**

I wish I could have had another year to explore courses outside my major (Politics) and life at Princeton generally. In particular, I regret not getting to know more of the women in our class. Junior and senior years, we were scattered among different majors, dorms and dining options. I've also regretted not joining The Daily Princetonian, which, after the recent Women of 72 Zoom sessions, I have concluded reflects not only the social and academic pressures of entering Princeton as a junior, but also the absence, as far as I am aware, of a formalized and continuing program by the university to guide the newly admitted women in navigating life at Princeton both in and out of the classroom and to follow up with us about our individual and collective experiences and interests.

**Vera**

That I didn't really realize what a great institution I was attending. I regret not having one-on-one mentoring that would have given me a firmer grasp on the challenges I would face.

**Meggan**

My interests in the arts and writing were thwarted. One art teacher was very anti-female and one visiting, very famous, male professor drank scotch and discussed his own writing and the bars he had frequented. He did not show any interest whatsoever in the students of this senior small seminar.

**Claudia**

In hindsight, I'm sure there were all kinds of academic avenues that I could and should have explored more deeply. I went to classes and did my course work, but – even though I am a “serious” person – I probably could have gained a lot more knowledge, insight, and experience if I'd been more assertive and determined.

**4. In all the turmoil of being one of a very small group of women students, were you able to take advantage of the academic side of Princeton? In what ways?**

**Helena**

Besides the beauty of Princeton campus, I loved the idea of a campus with easy access to all its sections on foot or via bicycle. In my Slavic department the faculty was incredible, approachable, and knowledgeable of my background – they steered me in the way of free thinking and open mind, as well as in deep academia and various resources. In addition, I took advantage of courses outside of my major in the arts, which introduced me to beauty and pleasure one receives observing art from ancient times to the present.

**Patricia**

I would have like to switch majors, but transferring made it difficult. Hence I took some history courses to fulfill requirements. History was a poor choice for someone with a poor memory, so I have very little left to show for all those hours and all that reading!

**Jackie**

Yes and no. I don't remember my junior paper experience at all. But I certainly do remember and appreciate the senior thesis.

**Diana**

Yes, in my field. I took three science course each of my four semesters. All were excellent, but all had accompanying labs. Looking back, I was a total grind. I do not remember anyone giving me "life advice" in terms of what courses I could or should take.

**Mary**

Yes. Princeton expected you to delve and search and find what might interest you. Like the world. Nothing was provided on a platter. The experience was what you made of it. Sought out the great professors in my field and great professors in other courses NOT in my field. My area of study provided good mentoring in our field. Junior papers and a thesis requirement was challenging but in hindsight so valuable

**Dorothy Fontana**

I did not find being one of a small number of women to be a problem. Professors and fellow students were welcoming. One of the challenges however was that whenever I talked in class, I felt like I was being judged, not for my ideas, but for whether co-education was a success. It made me think before speaking but also gave me a sense of accomplishment when my ideas were welcomed. I actually had professors seeking me out to join their classes because they wanted a "woman's perspective". Because of the few women on campus, almost all my friends were men. This fact was instrumental in teaching me how to work and communicate in a male-dominated environment. It helped me to learn to communicate clearly in ways that my male colleagues understood. This was extremely important for my successes in my future career. I felt completely immersed and successful in the academic side of Princeton.

**Dotty Kemper**

Certainly. I felt that my professors were invested in me and I appreciated the opportunities that can be offered by an excellent university as opposed to an excellent college.

**Vera**

No. I got through my classes as I had when I attended an all-white high school in the south. Alone and with my own devices. With mentoring, I would have realized more that was available to me academically. The sink or swim philosophy doesn't work well for individuals during the chaos of social change. More is needed.

**Meggan**

I truly loved my study in Japanese language and literature. I loved every course I took in the department. I still feel grateful that I was given the gift of that time of study! I also loved my courses in religion, psychology (more below) and anthropology.

**Claudia**

I don't remember feeling that being one of the few women on campus was a problem; it was neat to be part of something rather momentous. On the other hand, perhaps the fact that there were so few of us -- on top of my generally introverted personality -- was a factor in my reticence.

**5. What are a few of your most vivid memories? Do they relate to friends? Courses? Career decisions? Confidence you gained? Confidence you lost?**

**Yaffa**

1. Being asked by a seminar tutor if my being a woman was a handicap
2. Studying in a big cozy chair at Firestone
3. Falling in love and separation after being told I should go back to those 2 square miles of belligerent sand.
4. Organic chemistry lectures by Prof. Paul Von Scleyer.

**Helena**

- Eugene Onegin seminar with professor Richard Burgi, who, in his very classical way, brought to share with us the very Champagne that Eugene described as the one he was fond of.
- My wonderful roommate, Laurie Watson, with whom I shared many laughs as well as some tears, who I knew I could always count on for support as well as enjoy Buxton's ice-cream for a boost after Firestone Library closed at midnight.
- Tennis team and Mama Eva (Eve Kraft) - many highs on and off the courts
- Zeeva Cohen who helped me be free of inhibition through Modern Dance expression.
- Friendship and fun times with fellow Cap & Gowners

**Patricia**

Most vivid memories were of the convivial atmosphere at Tower Club and a few special friends gained there.

**Jackie**

Walking the campus at night and noting the silhouettes of the trees against the night sky. Lunch (PBJ, chips, coffee) in the student center with friends. Late night snacks in my tower room in Edwards Hall with a fellow English major. Applying to graduate school under the guidance of Professor Kestner, and feeling confident about my literary criticism and writing skills.

**Diana**

Memories include being the first one in the library in the mornings, leaving a lab at ten or eleven at night, and getting too little sleep. I was in a competitive major w/ pre-meds, and I worked very hard. My entire social life revolved around Charter Club, the man I was dating and then married, and our friends. In terms of self-confidence, I sometimes feel I would have developed better confidence had I stayed at Smith, but I was socially miserable there and could not stay. I also think about the benefits of small liberal arts colleges. Was I too little a fish in too competitive of a school? I'll never know.

**Mary**

My level of Chinese upon graduation was close to interpreter level; one professor thought I should go to Geneva to train to be a diplomatic interpreter. The study of Sufism/Comparative Government with a fabulous professor/Mr and Mrs Tang, my professors of classical Chinese. Confidence gained by attending class with and competing with some of the smartest men in the

world. Confidence lost by attending class and competing with some of the smartest men in the world. (Remember at that time men and women were not so "equal" as today.) I also enjoyed the social activities at Princeton very much, as well as my extra-curricular activities. Friends made - both female and male - remain some of my best friends today. So so happy that this reunion has brought me back in touch with some of my long-lost roommates too.

### **Dorothy Fontana**

My most vivid memory was working late at night on my senior thesis while a group of guys met in the room below. They got together to watch the old TV show Sea Hunt each night and counted the number of times the star said the word "umm". They would cheer each time he said it and I kept hearing the bubbling of the star's underwater breathing apparatus. It always made me smile and made it easier to continue working on my thesis.

### **Dotty Kemper**

Friends. Friends who opened up new worlds and new points of view. Friends who were witty but kind. Friends who were just so enchantingly smart. Watching Viva Las Vegas the night before a final instead of cramming. That night it snowed junior year and everybody went outside and celebrated for hours. 25 cent ice cream cones at Buxton's.

### **Helene**

My most vivid memories are of how academically exhilarated I felt, my time with friends, and of a Politics graduate student who took an interest in my senior thesis. The many hours I spent listening to and learning about opera with two of my friends from Wilson College and the deep personal confidences I shared with them and other friends about ourselves, our goals and politics are among my most meaningful Princeton memories. I recall the concerts we attended together and the political events we joined in response to the salient political issues at the time. I also have particularly fond memories of the Politics graduate student in the neighboring carrell. In addition to the encouragement of my professors, I credit him with helping me to refine my thesis. He was interested in my thesis topic, posed unexpected questions about my research and gave me a book on the topic that ultimately became the focus of my thesis.

### **Vera**

I gained confidence from graduating in three years, something that was not expected of an African American student. After graduating, I worked from an arts career to an environmental career. However, I could not stop until I got further degree, so I worked full-time and went to law school, becoming the first in my family to do so. Poverty drove many of my decisions.

### **Meggan**

I enrolled eagerly in a course entitled "How to Remember Your Dreams" by Henry Reed. This was the first time I had been asked to do something rather than to think something! We woke ourselves up with an alarm clock every ninety minutes and wrote down the dreams we recalled! Fifty years later I remember one dream image I had during our last days of school. I was raised by parents from the southern US who went as missionaries to Japan where I was born and lived through high school. I dreamed of two large African-American cooks frying chicken in large steel vats standing on the slopes of Mt Fuji, under a cherry tree in full bloom! Certainly I was working on an integration of my sense of self! I still have those dream notebooks and the experience enriched my life and began a path to my choice of a career in psychology.

**Claudia**

I have fairly diffuse, but positive, memories of dorm friends, both years. My memories of the courses I took are virtually nil, except for Humanities 406, Expository Writing, which was a terrific experience, both at the time and in retrospect. I don't think that one course had any bearing on my "career decisions" but I do think, now that you mention it, that it helped me greatly in gaining confidence as a writer.

**6. Was there a professor or staff member whom you recall as someone who supported or encouraged you?****Yaffa**

Prof. Sueoka - my mentor for the University Scholar program

**Helena**

Yes, Professor James H. Billington who was familiar with the mentality and customs I grew up in and helped me transition to free thinking and beyond through counsel, advice and guidance till almost the last days of his life.

**Patricia**

Nancy Weiss Malkiel. She was a friend and a mentor and to my lasting regret I allowed that to lapse. The junior professor, whose name I don't remember, who encouraged me to pursue economics.

**Jackie – Joseph Kestner****Diana**

No, but I do remember very well the professor who advised me not to take his course junior year because I would not do well. I took it senior year and aced it.

**Mary – many!****Dotty Kemper**

Prof Carlos Baker was the best ever. And always happy to write a recommendation. A good one!

**Helene**

Professors H.H. Wilson and Dennis Thompson

**Vera**

There was an African American dean whose name escapes me now, who supported my desire to graduate in three years.

**Meggan**

Karen Brazell, my advisor, was a kind and available person. She opened the doors to her home and we shared some deep experiences. Her skills as an advisor were not great, but then perhaps I



was also not very advisable. Later in Boston I was part of a seminar at the Stone Institute at Wellesley College. We studied mentoring as well as being mentored and we found that many women who were well mentored had a gene, a knack, an openness to being mentored that I did not seem to possess!

**Claudia**

Frankly, no, not in any "mentor" sense. I do think Prof. Dilliard, who taught the Expository Writing seminar [see previous answer], was supportive and encouraging in his comments, etc. (to me and surely to others as well).

**7. Was it easy or hard for you to make friends within the group of women who made up our class? What about men?**

**Yaffa**

Hard! Easier with men.

**Helena**

Despite the fact that I was shy and conscious of my accent I developed friendships with girls as well as boys thanks to the activities I chose to be involved in. I loved the campus life and was too busy with studies and training to ever feel lonely.

**Patricia**

I had nothing but passing friendships with the women of our class - mostly those in Tower Club. However, I had a very close woman friend, who remains a close friend, in the class of '73. It was easy to make men friends, but more complicated.

**Jackie**

Definitely harder with the women than with men. I had a fair number of male friends.

**Diana**

I loved my roommate Alice, but we were in totally different fields, and we had very different plans for our futures. I had lots of friends in Charter Club, but I did not reach out to make close friends because I was in a serious relationship with classmate Tom Jones.

**Mary**

Frankly, the discussion about "finding friends" among the women or "finding friends" among the men is not something that I focused on at Princeton. With participation in extracurricular activities and in my course work I made many friends. You had to find the energy and make the effort to look beyond yourself and I did not have enough time to do what I wanted to do. Please do not think that I am making light of the challenges and obstacles that existed for our first group of women at Princeton. But my expectations were really focused on the academic side when I went there.

**Dorothy Fontana**

It was easy to make friends among the men in the college. There were few women and they were not in my field of study which made it harder contact them. I did have a good woman

friend in my dorm but again, we were in different dining venues and different fields of study. My friends tended to be in the Colonial Club, and in my classes.

**Dotty Kemper**

Easy if you made the effort, women and men.

**Helene**

I was able to make friends easily among both women and men in our class. Being a member of Wilson College, one of then only two residential colleges, helped greatly. I became lasting friends with one of my junior year suite mates and with one of our male classmates who lived in the suite above ours. I also met other '72 women and men senior year in Edwards Hall, which was a welcoming living environment. As I've mentioned before, I regret not having gotten to know more of the women in our class who junior and senior years were scattered among different majors, dorms and eating options. It is only recently through Women of '72, She Roars and our recent Zoom sessions that I've connected or reconnected with some of them and shared much about our Princeton experience and life since graduation.

**Vera**

Hard. I made no lasting friendships among women or men. I had become accustomed from my high school experience (all-white) to being alone. Now I have reacquainted myself with Black Princeton students.

**Meggan** – It was not hard!

**Claudia**

I wouldn't say "easy" or "hard." I'm not very outgoing, but I think establishing friendships with women went relatively smoothly during those 2 years. Less so with men, especially beyond my dorms. For some reason, I remember being relatively friendly with 3 guys in the class of 1971 (during Junior year and to some extent thereafter).

**8. Have you remained in touch with classmates, male or female?**

Yaffa, who was forced to return to Israel after her one year on campus, says she hasn't stayed in touch with anyone. Other replies were mostly in the one-to-several range, male and female, "some continuously, others on-and-off," as Helena notes. Two responses of particular note came from:

**Diana**

I have enjoyed being with classmates since our Mt. Princeton hiking trip. Because of my experiences in the out-of-doors, physical strength, and stamina, this was one of the first times I felt I had something in common with classmates or that I might even be able to do better than they. Prior to this trip, I had heard too many stories at reunions about medicine, law, or finance, and I had read about class trips that involved wine, museums, sailing, or money -- not interests that I share with others. Since that Mt. P'ton trip, I have truly enjoyed occasional active adventures w/ classmates.

**Vera**

Recently I joined a group of Black alums who meet by zoom weekly. It has been wonderful!

**9. What extracurricular activities were most important to you, if any? What made them fun and/or meaningful?****Yaffa**

Political rallies anti war.

**Helena**

- Tennis and swimming - team spirit and competition.
- Community Theatre - great experience in Fiddler on the Roof.
- Zeeva Cohen's Modern Dance - Zeeva helped me get rid of my inhibitions.

**Jackie**

The crazy group of Intime actors and directors made that great fun.

**Diana**

None. As I said above, in retrospect, I realize I was a total grind.

**Mary**

Princeton Glee Club. Loved singing and many members of the glee club were different from my smaller group of friends that I met through rowing or East Asian Studies. Really loved crew and being coxswain for the women's crew. Made many good friends and improved my discipline (:(: running stadium steps to stay in shape early in the morning. Enjoyed Cap & Gown very much. (And Terrace and Stevenson Hall). Eating at the clubs offered a new opportunity to meet many more people...men and a small number of women combined.

**Dorothy Fontana**

I tried to join debate club but that was the only place where I ever felt I discouraged from joining. I never joined. However, I ended up spending a lot of happy evenings playing backgammon and bridge both at my dining club and around campus.

**Dotty Kemper**

Triangle Club, Intime, and the town PJ&B musicals were a revelation to me, and I learned an awful lot, especially from Triangle and its iconic director.

**Helene**

I participated in a number of political activities in response to then salient political issues. These events cemented my interest in the power of politic action and, of particular significance, gave me an opportunity to speak more directly with those with opposing views and to develop greater understanding and empathy about their perspectives.

**Vera**

Theatre. Of course I thought I would become a star. That experience stuck and shaped my career as a dance and theatre producer in my first years out of Princeton.

**Meggan**

Extracurricular activities were so important. I sang for a while with one of the two bands formed from our hippie group on campus. I was asked to play a leading role in a play at Intime Theatre which led to my study of Psychodrama after I graduated and my move to Cambridge. Our group did some psychedelic drugs out there on the golf course. I have some vivid memories, deep and real!

**Claudia**

I had an elementary school age "little sister" whom I met through the Student Volunteers Council, and I think I did other things through the SVC as well. I liked getting off campus, into the "real world" (such as it was). I also completed the Teacher Preparation Program, which included student teaching in a Princeton middle school, which was both "fun" and "meaningful" at the time.

**10. Overall, did you feel supported or not supported by our male classmates, professors, the administration and the social institutions (clubs, Stevenson Hall, Wilson College)? Are there any examples or incidents that stand out?**

**Yaffa**

I was indifferent to gender, so was not troubled by anything except for finding out that Princeton governors decided on a 25% quota when voting for coeducation!

**Helena**

I felt ALWAYS supported by female and male classmates, faculty and administration.

**Patricia**

I was aware that for a subset of the faculty and student body, women were interlopers. It caused me to tread lightly until I was certain of where a new acquaintance stood. That said, one part of me was sympathetic: I understood that something was lost to them when Princeton went co-ed. The Wellesley/Princeton experience actually left me more appreciative of the advantages and charms of single sex education. Sorry!

**Jackie**

Without any formal support, I nonetheless felt supported by classmates and professors. And also by the members of Stevenson Hall.

**Diana**

Not in general. I was the only woman in almost all of my classes, possibly the only woman in my department. Things were a little better at Charter Club, an organization that went out of its way to recruit women. I have to add here that I felt no support from male classmates at reunions until just recently. Uniforms were typically sized for men. Most men seemed to assume that all the

women at our reunions were spouses and not classmates. This has definitely improved thanks to the work of Daryl and other active female classmates. Thank you!

### **Mary**

As everywhere, some people supported you and some people did not. Some institutions were welcoming and some were not. I could write up several instances of support and several instances of non-support.

### **Dorothy Fontana**

I felt supported by male classmates, professors, the administration and the social institutions. The only time I felt alone and isolated was in my first months at Pyne Hall. The separate landings in Pyne Hall's layout tended to isolate people.

### **Dotty Kemper**

Definitely felt supported by the male classmates I chose to hang with. I know there were others who were not so welcoming, but why hang with them? I was not looking for trouble and didn't find it.

### **Helene**

I felt great support from the male classmates in the suite above mine at Wilson College. They were among my first friends and one in particular is still among my closest friends. While I felt supported academically by my professors in the Politics Departments and other classes, I did not become acquainted with the Master of Wilson College or any university administrators. It would have helped me navigate life outside of classes had there been continuing and formalized follow-up with the newly admitted women. It would also have been an opportunity to meet more of the women and share our individual and collective experiences.

### **Vera**

Overall - not supported. Sorry guys. Most stayed silent. Some were outright hostile, but polite. I was very alone. Women were not allowed to join the eating clubs. The one incident that stands out is my first-year math professor who visited my dorm room and wanted to have sex with me. That shaped my view of Princeton for a while. I changed my major from math to philosophy after that.

### **Meggan**

I did not feel particularly supported by the administration or social institutions. Having been editor of literary magazines at my high school as well as the school I transferred from, I was told there was no literary magazine at Princeton and women were not particularly invited to be a part of the student paper. Of course, there was never an effort made to welcome us, introduce us to each other, or create any sense of comradery. I also had a unique experience of visiting a psychiatrist in the Student Health Center. Her views on sexuality (which was indeed everywhere around us!) were extremely out of date with my concerns and experiences. She was so unhelpful it hurt. I never went back. The Health Center had recruited some women psychiatrists to come in part time and this was one of them. I have never asked other women if they sought help at the Health Center for the sexual expectations that were all around us in 1970.

**Claudia**

Neutral. I don't think I crossed paths with many stereotypical "preppy" Princetonians. I had relatively little to do with them or with most of the campus institutions, such as eating clubs, that -- at least in my mind -- appeared to be a focus for them. Wilson College had a different feel, and I'm very glad I lived there junior year, but I can't say I felt especially "supported" there individually.

**11. Looking back at your younger self, if you had it to do over again, what would you do differently during your time at Princeton?****Yaffa**

I guess I would not have taken that holiday in Israel, at which time I was drafted to the army. That said, if that was not so, I would not have met my wonderful husband (now deceased) nor had my lovely family!

**Helena**

Realistically, looking back I cannot imagine coming out of Princeton any better doing things differently. Whatever opportunity popped up and I took advantage of I always benefited from in a short or long run.

**Patricia**

As I said, explore more.

**Jackie**

Take more advantage of NYC. Paid a bit more attention to my senior year classes, in addition to focusing so intently on my senior thesis.

**Diana**

I would take fewer research-based science courses that had accompanying labs. The amount of time I spent either in lecture or lab -- with regular lab reports due -- was crazy. I would seek out classes that offered study or field work away from campus.

**Mary**

No.

Yes, I wish I had taken even more advantage of being in that superior academic environment. As I have written, I learned a tremendous amount at Princeton and coping with life as it was at that time. There were ups and downs. But overall my life and career strongly benefitted from being at Princeton. I would do it all over again - and feel lucky that I had been admitted and provided the opportunity of being there. And if I could have taken advantage of more - I would have.

**Helene**

I would join The Daily Princetonian.

**Vera**

I would be 20 years older and more mature. With that maturity, I would fight harder to enjoy the benefits everyone loves Princeton for. I would insist on mentoring, one-on-one, to help me transition. And I would have no guilt about insisting on the help. It was necessary. Princeton did not just give me an opportunity. I gave Princeton the opportunity to move into the future with co-education.

**Meggan**

I would have found a choir to sing in. . . .I cannot believe that I forgot to do this!! Knowing what I know now I would have looked for a psychotherapist to guide me through the waves and waves of complexity and newness, not academic, that part was fine. Looking back on it now I am amazed at how brave we were, how truly courageous and innocent. . . .

**Claudia**

I wish I had a genuine mentor, but I have no idea how one establishes such a relationship.